

**MINUTES
TOWN OF LAKE CLARKE SHORES
SECOND PUBLIC HEARING 2022/2023 TOWN BUDGET
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022
6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

A. Roll Call

Mayor Paul R. Shalhoub called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The following officials were present:

Paul R. Shalhoub, Mayor
Robert M. W. Shalhoub, Vice Mayor
Gregory Freebold, President Pro Tem
Valentin Rodriguez, Jr., Council Member
Robert O. Gonzalez, Council Member (arrived at 6:34 p.m.)

B. Moment of Silence, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance
(moved from Regular Town Council Agenda)

Mayor Shalhoub requested a moment of silence for Town resident Thomas “Tom” Fratz, who passed away recently.

The Most Reverend Father Peter Sphortun of St. Mary's Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach gave the invocation, then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Second Public Hearing 2022/2023 Town Budget

A. Presentation – Daniel Clark, Town Manager

Mr. Clark noted that the Town has to follow certain procedures for each of the five different funds.

He provided the following information regarding the 2022/2023 budget:

General Budget:

- Millage rate of 6.2798 has remained the same for 13 years.
- Roll back rate of 5.6155.
- Taxable value of \$338.7M is up 12.61%
- No changes in staff or benefits with up to 4% merit increases.
- Events are back on schedule. Loop around the Lake possibly returning in 2023
- Increase of 3% in garbage collection services.
- Noted some items included within the capital budget that have been put off for years have been included in the 2022/2023 budget.

Utility Fund:

- Unbalanced – drawing from reserves to fund capital improvements.

- No changes in staff or benefits with up to 4% merit increase.
- Noted new initiatives and items included within the capital budget.

Infrastructure Surtax Fund:

- Estimated revenue of \$269,000 and listed expenditures in the amount of \$214,500.
- Carry forward of \$419,500.

CRA Fund:

- PBC TIF Contribution of \$45,652 and LCS TIF Contribution of \$59,957.
- Listed expenditures in the amount of \$136,200 for the Business Incentive Program, updating the codes within the CRA and for park improvements.

ARPA Funds

- No new revenue expected.
- Majority of expenditures will be towards the Lawrence Road widening project.

Note: Mayor Shalhoub asked for the audience comments first, with the Council comments to follow. The order of the minutes reflect the change to the agenda.

3. Audience Comments

Timothy Daughtry, 1410 Keller Road – discussed the increases to the budget over the years, the need for the millage rate to be lowered, the increases in employee pay, the Town's use of larger vehicles and the fiduciary responsibility of the Council.

Jeffery Shanin, 8121 Pine Tree Lane – had questions regarding the amount budgeted for Pine Tree Bridge.

4. Council Comments

Mayor Rodriguez – noted that the budget is very reasonable. Stated the increase in the taxable value of homes in Town is good news and that the Police Department personnel are underpaid compared to other Police Departments.

Council Member Gonzalez – noted other municipalities lower millage rates by very small percentages which do not amount to much savings to residents. He noted that homestead exemptions keep taxable value increases to 3% per year. He also noted that higher costs for materials and other goods impact the Town as much as they impact the residents. He stated that he was sad that the LCS Police Department is the least paid force in the area and that they need to get the pay increases as noted in the budget.

President Pro Tem Freebold – noted the Town has had problems with employees leaving for higher pay. He also discussed the need for the Town to do the projects that have been put off for years.

Vice Mayor Shalhoub – discussed the salaries that the Town pays for Police Officers and staff. He noted how the Town can no longer compete with other municipalities to hire or retain officers or staff members because the pay is too low.

He also thanked Mr. Clark for his work on the budget.

Mayor Shalhoub closed the Public Hearing portion of the meeting at 6:51 PM.

5. Approval of Resolutions

A. Resolution 2022-18 – Adoption of 2022/2023 Millage Rate

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Lake Clarke Shores, Florida, Setting and Fixing a Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 at 6.2798 Mills.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Shalhoub to approve Resolution 2022-18, seconded by President Pro Tem Freebold; Motion approved (5-0).

B. Resolution 2022-19 – Adoption of 2022/2023 Budget

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Lake Clarke Shores, Florida, adopting a Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Shalhoub to approve Resolution 2022-19, seconded by Council Member Gonzalez; Motion approved (5-0).

Mayor Shalhoub asked Mr. Clark to respond to the questions regarding Pine Tree Bridge. Mr. Clark noted that the Town received information from FDOT stating the bridge replacement project will start sometime in March or April 2023.

6. Adjournment

Motion made by Council Member Gonzalez to adjourn the second Public Hearing 2022/2023 Town Budget at 6:54 PM, seconded by President Pro Tem Freebold; Motion carried (5-0).

Paul R. Shalhoub, Mayor

Mary Pinkerman, Town Clerk